MINNESOTA AG NEWS

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Released: March 31, 2005

MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MN and U.S. Depts. of Agriculture
PO Box 7068, St. Paul, MN 55107
Phone: (651) 296-2230
E-mail: nass-mn@nass.usda.gov
Homepage: http://www.nass.usda.gov/mn/

MINNESOTA CORN AND SOYBEAN ACREAGE UNCHANGED FROM 2004

(NOTE: The acreage that farmers actually plant in Minnesota and the U.S. may change from those published in this report due to many factors, including availability of credit, grain prices, changing weather conditions, availability of inputs, and the influence of this report on farmers' plans.)

SOYBEAN planting intended acreage is estimated at 7.3 million acres, unchanged from 2004, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service.

CORN growers in Minnesota intend to plant an estimated 7.5 million acres for all purposes, unchanged from last year.

SPRING WHEAT planting acreage intentions are estimated at 1.95 million acres, up 250,000 acres from last year.

SUGARBEET planting intended acreage of 484,000 acres is down 2,000 acres from 2004.

OAT planting intentions at 310,000 acres remain unchanged from last year.

Minnesota's **BARLEY** planting intentions increased 8 percent from last year as farmers intend to plant 140,000 acres.

The state's **ALL SUNFLOWER** planting intentions of 150,000 acres are up 150 percent from 2004. **OIL** acreage of 85,000 would be up 55,000 acres from 2004. **NON-OIL** acres of 65,000 would be up 35,000 acres from last year.

Crop	2004 Planted	2005 Intentions	% change previous year
	-1,000 acres-		*Percent*
Corn	7,500	7,500	unch.
Soybeans	7,300	7,300	unch.
All Wheat 1/	1,728	1,975	+14
Spring Wheat	1,700	1,950	+15
Winter Wheat 2/	27	25	-7
Oats	310	310	unch.
Barley	130	140	+8
Dry Beans	115	130	+13
Sugarbeets	486	484	-1
Flaxseed	3	9	+200
All Sunflower	60	150	+150
Oil	30	85	+183
Non-Oil	30	65	+117
Canola	35	45	+29
All Hay 3/	2,000	1,950	-3

1/ Durum Wheat acres discontinued in 2005 for MN. 2/ Acres planted in preceding fall. 3/ Harvested acres.

U.S. HIGHLIGHTS

Corn Planted Acreage Up 1 Percent from 2004
Soybean Acreage Down 2 Percent

Corn planted area for all purposes is estimated at 81.4 million acres, up 1 percent from 2004 and 4 percent above 2003. If realized, this would be largest corn acreage since 1985. Expected acreage is up from last year throughout much of the Corn Belt and southern Great Plains. However, growers in most States in the Delta, Southeast, and northern Great Plains intend to decrease their corn acreage as producers are switching to other more profitable crops due to low corn prices and high fuel and fertilizer costs.

Soybean producers intend to plant 73.9 million acres in 2005, down 2 percent from last year's record high acreage. Of the 31 soybean producing States, growers in 16 States intend to plant fewer acres this year, while producers in 11 States intend to plant more acres than in 2004. The largest acreage declines are in the Dakotas, where low soybean prices have some farmers shifting to other crops. Large declines in soybean acreage are also expected in the Delta and Southeast States.

Due to the discovery of Asian soybean rust in the U.S., questions were asked of farmers in soybean producing States about their awareness of the disease and how it has affected their planting decisions. For detailed results of this effort, see the second page of this report.

All wheat planted area is expected to total 58.6 million acres in 2005, down 2 percent from 2004. If realized, this would be the lowest planted acreage since 1972. Winter wheat planted area for the 2005 crop is 41.6 million acres, down 4 percent from 2004. Of the total, about 30.5 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 6.6 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 4.5 million acres are White Winter. The 2005 other spring wheat planted acreage is estimated at 14.4 million, up 4 percent from last year. Of the total, about 13.7 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. Area planted to Durum wheat is intended to total 2.61 million acres, up 2 percent from the previous year.

(OVER)

Doug Kilburg
Mathematical Statistician

Douglas Hartwig
State Statistician

Asian Soybean Rust

The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducts the March Agricultural Survey in all States each year. Randomly selected farmers across the United States were asked what they intend to plant during the upcoming growing season for a number of crops, including soybeans. Due to the discovery of Asian soybean rust in the United States and the heightened speculation of how growers would react to the fast-spreading, yield-reducing disease, questions were included in the March Agricultural Survey for the 31 soybean-producing States to measure farmer awareness of Asian soybean rust and how its discovery has affected their planting decisions for the 2005 crop.

Results of the Asian soybean rust questions by State and Region are included in the following tables.

These survey results are subject to sampling variability because all operations planting soybeans are not included in the sample of over 68,000. The variability for the 31 soybean-producing States, as measured by the relative standard error at the U.S. level, is approximately 2.4 percent for farmer awareness, 4.6 percent for whether Asian rust was a factor in the planting decisions, and 4.3 percent for their change in planting intentions. This means that chances are approximately 95 out of 100 that survey estimates will be within plus or minus 4.8 percent for farmer awareness, 9.2 percent for whether Asian rust was a factor in the planting decisions, and 8.6 percent for their change in planting intentions.

Soybeans: Asian Rust Awareness by State and United States, Percent of All Farms and Farms Reporting Soybean Intentions, March 2005

State	Have you seen, read, or heard any information about Asian Rust?					
	All Farms			Farms Reporting Soybean Intentions		
	Yes	No	Don't Know	Yes	No	Don't Know
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
AL	32	58	10	91	9	*
AR	38	58	4	88	10	2
DE	22	65	13	59	3	38
FL	3	97	*	72	25	3
GA	30	70	*	90	10	*
IL	89	9	2	98	2	*
IN	62	32	6	81	18	1
IA	87	6	7	94	2	4
KS	61	32	7	89	8	3
KY	35	64	1	65	29	6
LA	52	25	23	91	4	5
MD	35	53	12	91	9	*
MI	36	61	3	93	6	1
MN	59	33	8	82	13	5
MS	42	57	1	88	12	*
MO	62	31	7	93	6	1
NE	86	13	1	96	3	1
NJ	33	67	*	86	12	2
NY	22	76	2	75	23	2
NC	37	63	*	84	16	*
ND	60	32	8	96	4	*
OH	48	39	13	92	5	3
OK	24	74	2	70	29	1
PA	34	66	*	87	12	1
SC	38	58	4	82	18	*
SD	76	20	4	95	5	*
TN	26	71	3	85	9	6
TX	15	76	9	69	28	3
VA	21	78	1	86	14	*
WV	28	65	7	91	5	4
WI	63	26	11	78	8	14
US	43	51	6	89	8	3

* Data rounds to less than 0.5 percent.

Soybeans: Asian Rust's Impact on Planting Intentions for Soybean Farm Operators who are Aware of Rust by Region and United States March 2005

Region [1]	Was Asian Rust a factor in your planting intentions?			
	Yes	If so, how did your intentions change?		
		Increase	Decrease	No Change
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
Northeast	12	16	44	40
Great Lake States	9	14	45	41
Corn Belt	10	7	47	46
Northern Plains	11	12	48	40
Appalachian	13	2	55	43
Southeast	29	4	63	33
Delta States	19	5	63	32
Southern Plains	15	6	55	39
US	11	9	49	42

[1] Regions consist of the following States: Appalachian: KY, NC, TN, VA, WV; Corn Belt: IA, IL, IN, MO, OH; Delta States: AR, LA, MS; Great Lake States: MI, MN, WI; Northeast: DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA; Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD; Southeast: AL, FL, GA, SC; Southern Plains: OK, TX.

Doug Kilburg
Mathematical Statistician

Douglas Hartwig
Director